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By

Eric L. Maldonado

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Attorney Docket No. SCEY 20.609 (100809-00221)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Toshikazu KOBAYASHI, et al.
Serial No.: 10/659,751
Filed: September 10, 2003
Title: OPTICAL DISK REPRODUCING...
Examiner:
Art Unit:

December 1, 2003

Director of the U.S. Patent and
Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

S I R:

In order to comply with discretionary rules 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of the documents listed thereon. These documents contain information in which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

As this statement is being filed prior to issuance of a first Office Action, no fee is due.

Also attached is a copy of an International Search Report dated November 18, 2003 from the corresponding PCT Application. All of the documents listed in Form PTO-1449 appear in the International Search Report.

As some of these documents are written in a language other than English, English Language abstracts are annexed thereto explaining their relevancy in accordance with 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3).


Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 §CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

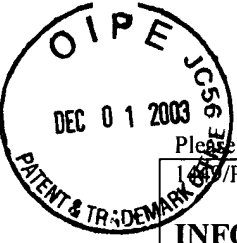
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Respectfully submitted,



Thomas D. Bean
Reg. No. 44,528

Katten Muchin Zavis Rosenman
575 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022-2585
(212) 940-8800
DOCKET NO.: SCEY 20.609(100809-00221)



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Application No. : 10/659,751

Filing Date : September 10, 2003

First Named Inventor: T. KOBAYASHI

Group Art Unit :

Examiner Name :

Attorney Docket No. : SCEY 20.609

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

Sheet 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document	Kind Code if known ²	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		2002/0159343		FUJIMOTO	10/31/2002	

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Office ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Country	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YY/Y	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		2003-030865	JP	SONY CORP	01/31/2003	
		2001-250245	JP	MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD	09/14/2001	Corresponds to US Patent Appln. Pub. No. 2002/0159343

Other Prior Art-Non Patent Literature Documents

Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), data, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, country, where published, source.	Applicant check here if English language translation attached
Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw a line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that Issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.1⁶ if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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